

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-12

INFO OCT-01 IO-12 ADP-00 AGR-20 EB-11 AID-20 IGA-02 COME-00

CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-02 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10

PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-15 USIA-12 EA-11 OMB-01 RSR-01

/155 W

----- 010200

R 230810 Z MAY 73

FM AMEMBASSY DACCA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9802

INFO USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD

AMCONSUL KARACHI

AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

AMCONSUL MADRAS

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE DACCA 2287

E. O. 11652: N/ A

TAGS: ETRN, EAGR, BG, PK

SUBJ: SHIP SUNK CARRYING PAK RICE FOR BANGLADESH

REF: A) DACCA 2269; B) DACCA 2176

1. UNROB HAS CONFIRMED TO US THAT GREEK- FLAG VESSEL SPYROS, U
CARRYING 9,800 TONS OF RICE, SANK CAR MADRAS ON MAY 13/14

(PARA. 4, REF A). CARGO WAS PART EIVOSG PURCHASE OF ABOUT
45,000 TONS PAK RICE THROUGH CONTINENTAL GRAIN/ NEW YORK.
FIRST DELIVERY OF 11,100 TONS ARRIVED CHITTAGONG MAY 13,
CURRENTLY BEING DISCHARGED. (CF. REF B).

2. SPYROS ENGINE ROOM FLOODED AND SHIP WAS BEING TOWED BY VESSEL
HARRIET (BEARING 32,000 TONS WHAT FOR CHITTAGONG) WHEN IT
CAPSIZED AND SANK OFF MADRAS. CREW TRANSFERRED TO HARRIET, WHICH
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ARRIVED BD MAY 16.

3. BECAUSE OF POLITICAL IMPLICATIONS BDG PROCUREMENT FROM PAKISTAN NO LOCAL PUBLICITY GIVEN SINKING OF VESSEL AND LOSS OF CARGO, UNTIL MAY 22, WHEN SUSPICION BROADCAST THAT SINKING WAS ACT OF SABOTAGE BY PAK AGENTS REF A. PAK ENGINEER AND CREWMAN DISCOVERED ON BOARD HARRIET BY SPYROS' AGENT, BD SHIPPING CORP. ACCORDING PRESS MAY 23, FULL INVESTIGATION LAUNCHED BY " HIGHEST AUTHORITIES" BDG. SIX OFFICERS OF SPYROS AND ONE CREW MEMEBER, ALL GREEK, REPORTEDLY DETAINED FOR QUESTIONING DACCA.

4. PERHAPS ILL ADVISEDLY, BDG HAS CHOSEN TO PUBLICIZE SINKING AND TO CHARGE PAKS WITH SABOTAGING VESSEL " TO CREATE RICE CRISIS IN BANGLADESH" AS PART OF WILD SERIES OF ALLEGATIONS DISTRACTING FROM DEMANDS OF BHASHANI HUNGER STRIKEWILE BUILDING ON CO- INCIDENT ALLEGED BHASHANI NAP- CHINESE- PAK- US CONSPIRACY TO DISRUPT ASIAN PEACECONFERENCE MAY 23/25. WHETHER IN PROCESS PRIOR DELIVERIES PAK RICE HERE WILL BE EXPOSED BY OPPOSITION AND WHETHER REMAINDER OF CURRENT SHIPMENT WILL BE AFFECTED NOT CLEAR.
NEWBERRY

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NMAFVVZCZ

*** Current Handling Restrictions *** n/a

*** Current Classification *** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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TAGS: EAGR, ETRN, BG, PK, ETRN
To: ISLAMABAD
KARACHI
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NEA
NEW DELHI
SECSTATE WASHDC
USUN NEW YORK

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